

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 2, 3 and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to appear in independent form. Claim 8 has been amended only to remove element numbers from the claim, and therefore bring claim 8 into conformity with typical U.S. practice. The scopes of claims 2, 3 and 8 are unchanged by these amendments. No new matter is added.

Specification

On page 2 of the Office Action, the disclosure is objected to because paragraphs [0004] and [0005] are improper. Accordingly, paragraphs [0004] and [0005] have been deleted from the specification. No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

On page 2 of the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,471,596 (“Deaton”).

Claim 1 has been cancelled, with dependent claims 2 and 3 being rewritten in independent form and including all the limitations of cancelled claim 1. The scopes of claims 2 and 3 are unchanged by this amendment. No new matter is added. Reconsideration, allowance, and notice to that effect are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 2-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form, including all the

limitations of claim 1. The scopes of claims 2 and 3 are unchanged by this amendment. Dependent claims 4-16 depend from claim 3, and the scopes of claims 4-16 are all unchanged by this amendment. No new matter is added. Reconsideration, allowance, and notice to that effect are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the amendments and reasons provided above, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims.

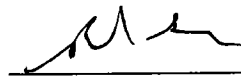
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's attorney of record, Michael B. Lasky, at (612) 436-3152.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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REG/mej